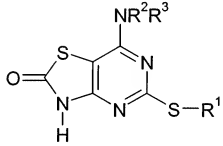
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

in which

R^1 represents a C_3-C_7 carbocyclic, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl or C_2-C_6 alkynyl group, each of the groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$ or a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S, and O, wherein the phenyl group, the naphthyl group, and the 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group are each optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$, C_1-C_6 alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups;

R^2 and R^3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C_3-C_7 carbocyclic, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl or C_2-C_6 alkynyl group, the latter four groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from:

(a) halogen atoms, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$;

(b) a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, S, NR^8 and itself optionally substituted by C_1-C_3-alkyl or halogen; or

(c) a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S, and O, wherein the phenyl group, the naphthyl group, and the 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group are each optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$, C_1-C_6 alkyl and trifluoromethyl groups;

R^4 represents hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl or a phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{11}$ and $-NR^{12}R^{13}$

R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl or phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{14}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$

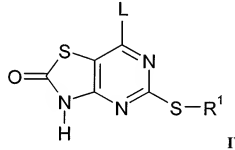
or

R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen atoms, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from phenyl, $-OR^{14}$, $-COOR^{14}$, $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$ or C_1-C_6 alkyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $-OR^{17}$ groups;

R^{10} represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6-alkyl or a phenyl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{17}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$; and

each of R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14} R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17} independently represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, or a phenyl group;

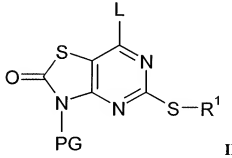
which method comprises contacting



IV

wherein L is a leaving group

with a thiazole nitrogen protecting group reagent under appropriate reaction conditions to form a compound of the formula

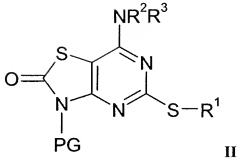


III

wherein PG is a protecting group,

reacting the compound of formula III with an amine of formula HNR^2R^3

to form a compound of formula



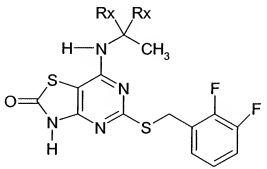
II

and deprotection of the compound of formula II to give a compound of the formula I, and simultaneous or sequential conversion to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 and wherein R^1 represents an optionally substituted benzyl group.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 and wherein one of R^2 or R^3 is hydrogen and the other is C_1-C_8 alkyl substituted by hydroxy and one or more methyl or ethyl groups.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of the formula Ia



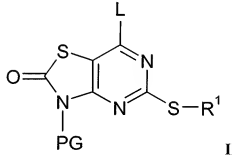
Ia

wherein each R^X is independently selected from hydrogen, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by hydroxy, amino, -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -S-C_{1-4} alkyl, -N-C_{1-4} alkyl, $-NHSO_2R$, or $-CONR_2$ and provided that both R^X are not hydrogen or amino.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein each R^X is independently selected from hydrogen and hydroxymethyl, provided that both R^X are not hydrogen.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A compound of the formula



III

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and wherein

R^1 represents a C_3-C_7 carbocyclic, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl or C_2-C_6 alkynyl group, each of the groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, -OR^4, -NR^5R^6, -$CONR^5R^6$, -$COOR^7$, -NR^8COR^9, -SR^{10}, -SO_2R^{10}, -$SO_2NR^5R^6$, -$NR^8SO_2R^9$ or a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S, and O, wherein the phenyl group, the naphthyl group, and the 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group are each optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, -OR^4, -

NR^5R^6, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$, C_1-C_6 alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups;

R^4 represents hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl or a phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{11}$ and $-NR^{12}R^{13}$

R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl or phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{14}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$

or

R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen atoms, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from phenyl, $-OR^{14}$, $-COOR^{14}$, $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$ or C_1-C_6 alkyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $-OR^{17}$ groups;

R^{10} represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6-alkyl or a phenyl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{17}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$;

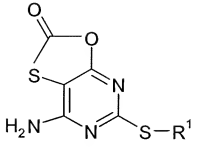
each of R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14} R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17} independently represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, or a phenyl group;

L is a leaving group; and

PG is a protecting group.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A compound of the formula



V

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and wherein

R^1 represents a C_3-C_7 carbocyclic, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl or C_2-C_6 alkynyl group, each of the groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$ or a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S, and O, wherein the phenyl group, the naphthyl group, and the 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group are each optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$, C_1-C_6 alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups;

R^4 represents hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl or a phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{11}$ and $-NR^{12}R^{13}$

R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl or phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{14}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$

or

R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen atoms, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more

substituent groups independently selected from phenyl, -OR^{14}, -$COOR^{14}$, -$NR^{15}R^{16}$, -$CONR^{15}R^{16}$, -$NR^{15}COR^{16}$, -$SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$ or C_1-C_6 alkyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and –$NR^{15}R^{16}$ and -OR^{17} groups;

R^{10} represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6-alkyl or a phenyl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, -OR^{17} and -$NR^{15}R^{16}$; and

each of R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14} R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17} independently represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, or a phenyl group.

10. (Cancelled)